

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1972 McMillan, B.A.
An Archeological Survey of St. Mary's County, Maryland.
Submitted to Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences of the American University

Library ID No: 00006489 Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 107

Sites examined:

18ST53

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I ☒

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

The Abell's Wharf site (18ST53) was first identified by archeologist Dr. B. McMillan during her extensive 1972 survey of St. Mary's County. The major aim of that survey, which was submitted as a Master's thesis, was to collect information on the nature and extent of prehistoric settlement in that portion of St. Mary's County along the Potomac drainage system.

Project Objectives:

-Locate archeological resources situated within the St. Mary's County portion of the Potomac drainage.

-Establish a testable hypothesis regarding the movement of people and changes in resource procurement.

-Relate those findings to the general Middle Atlantic prehistoric sequence.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1976 Humphries, M.E.
Abell's Wharf: A Study in Archaeological Conservation Problems in the Field and an Archaeological Survey of St. Mary's County, Maryland.
Submitted to The Maryland Historical Trust

Library ID No: 00006387 Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 9

Research Firm/Institution:

Archeologist, St. Mary's County

Sites examined:

18ST53

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I ☒

Phase II ☒

Phase III

Project Justification:

In 1974, the landowner was developing plans for gravel mining a large area including the site. He received permission to begin the mining operations with the caveat that all sites of archeological significance were to be excavated before any earth moving activities were conducted. The owner arranged to have the site exempted from any mining activities and leased the land to the St. Clement's Island and Potomac River Museum for 189 years. Two separate reports were written up detailing the 1975 investigations (1 by the state archeologist and 1 by the county archeologist).

Project Objectives:

-Evaluate the nature and significance of the site.

-Encourage its preservation.

-Determine what procedures should be used to minimize the loss of significant information.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1976 Peck, D.W.
Abell's Wharf: A Preliminary Report.
Submitted to The Maryland Historic Trust

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Geological Survey
2300 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Sites examined:

18ST53

NRHP Eligible: ☒[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I ☒Phase II ☒

Phase III

Project Justification:

In 1974, the current landowner was developing plans for gravel mining a large area including the site. He received permission to begin the mining operations with the caveat that all sites of archeological significance were to be excavated before any earth moving activities were conducted. The owner arranged to have the site exempted from any mining activities and leased the land to the St. Clement's Island and Potomac River Museum for 189 years. Two separate reports were written up detailing the 1975 investigations (1 by the state archeologist and 1 by the county archeologist).

Project Objectives:

-Evaluate the nature and significance of the site.

-Encourage its preservation.

-Determine what procedures should be used to minimize the loss of significant information.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1976 Peck, D.W.
The Abell's Wharf Site: 1976 Progress Report.

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Geological Survey
2300 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Library ID No: 00006389

Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 11

Sites examined:

18ST53

NRHP Eligible: ☒[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I ☒Phase II ☒

Phase III

Project Justification:

Excavations at Abell's Wharf (18ST53) continued in the late spring and summer of 1976. Most of the work was conducted the week of May 29th – June 6th during the Sixth Annual Maryland Archeological Field Session. Results of work conducted during the last field session (17th and 18th of July) were not included in the original report.

Project Objectives:

-Expose a larger area of the site to new investigation.

-Re-expose and excavate features identified but not examined in 1975.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1995 Myers, J.E. et al.
Final Report: Fox Point Phase I Archeological Survey, Britton, St. Mary's County, Maryland.
Submitted to The Arundel Corporation

Research Firm/Institution:

Dames & Moore
7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814

Library ID No: 00006517

Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 134

Sites examined:

18ST53

NRHP Eligible: ☒[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
Phase II		An intensive Phase I survey was conducted in 1995 of a large parcel that adjoins site 18ST53. The Phase I survey was initiated ahead of proposed mining operations in that project area. In the original report, the authors stated that the Abell's Wharf site name and number were applied to all the artifacts collected and to the project area. It was determined by State archeologists that the 1995 survey area represented a continuation of site 18ST53. The northwest portion of the 1995 study area (Area 1) butts up against the 1975/76 study area and probably forms a continuation of the core site area identified in the 1970's. All that separates the 1975/6 and 1995 survey areas is a property boundary fence.	-Locate all cultural resources within the project area.
Phase III			-Delineate their approximate spatial boundaries and chronological and cultural affiliations. -Determine if any of those resources were potentially eligible for National Register listing.

Research Potential:
See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

Research Firm/Institution:

1995 Hopkins, J.W. and N.A. Baumgartner-Wagner
Phase II Archeological Investigation of the Arundel Corporation Proposed Sand and Gravel Mining Adjacent to the Abell's Wharf Site, 18ST53 in St. Mary's County, Maryland.
Submitted to The Arundel Corporation

Library ID No: 00006520 Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 137

Joseph Hopkins Associates, Inc.
3211 Berkshire Road
Baltimore, MD 21214

Sites examined:

18ST53
NRHP Eligible: ☒
[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phase II testing at the Abell's Wharf site (18ST53) commenced in the summer of 1995. The goal of the survey was to evaluate resources in Area 1 and Area 4 as previously identified during the Phase I testing.	-Determine if resources were present in the two areas.
Phase III			-Evaluate the significance of materials recovered from Area 1 as they related to the Abell's Wharf site. -Determine the integrity of resources in Area 4.

Research Potential:
Excavations at Abell's Wharf (18ST53) revealed an extensive, multi-component prehistoric and historic site. It included features associated with a prehistoric camp with components from Early Archaic through Woodland times. The best represented, and most intensive, prehistoric periods were the Early and Middle Woodland phases of occupation. This is significant because it provides information on the shift from hunting and foraging to intensive oyster exploitation. The historic period resources are associated with a colonial homestead, and date from ca. AD 1690 to 1740. This provides an important source of information about 17th and 18th century building traditions and settlement and subsistence patterns in Southern Maryland. The Abell's Wharf Archeological Site was determined eligible for listing in the Maryland Register of Historic Places in 1986.